

Message Text

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ORIGIN ARA-14

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-----059560 170134Z /73

R 161945Z AUG 77
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 194207

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EAID, GT, SHUM

SUBJECT: HUMAN RIGHTS DEMARCHE ON AID LOANS -- EMBASSY
VIEWS SOUGHT

1. AT AUGUST 11 MEETING, INTERAGENCY GROUP ON HUMAN RIGHTS AND FOREIGN ASSISTANCE CHAIRED BY DEPUTY SECRETARY GAVE ITS CONCURRENCE TO PROPOSED \$12 MILLION RURAL ELECTRIFICATION LOAN AND PROPOSED \$3.8 MILLION FARMERS MARKETING LOAN FOR GUATEMALA.
2. GROUP DECIDED THAT EMBASSY, AT SUCH TIME AS THE LOANS ARE FINALLY AUTHORIZED BY AID/WASHINGTON (THIS IS EXPECTED IN EARLY SEPTEMBER FOR MARKETING LOAN AND INDEFINITE DATE THIS FALL FOR ELECTRIFICATION LOAN), SHOULD ACCOMPANY NOTIFICATION TO GOG WITH AN ORAL DEMARCHE EXPRESSING OUR CONTINUING HUMAN RIGHTS CONCERNS AND POINTING OUT THAT THOSE CONCERNS ARE BEING TAKEN INTO
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ACCOUNT IN OUR ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE DECISIONS.

3. DEPARTMENT REQUESTS EMBASSY'S VIEWS ON WHETHER THE DEMARCHE SHOULD MOST APPROPRIATELY BE MADE BY THE AMBASSADOR OR BY THE AID DIRECTOR, AND TO WHOM (E.G. AID DIRECTOR AT TIME HE TELLS MINISTER OF FINANCE OF LOAN AUTHORIZATION). IN ADDITION, DEPARTMENT REQUESTS EMBASSY'S

VIEWS ON FOLLOWING POINTS WHICH DEPT WOULD LIKE TO MAKE.

(A) THESE LOANS ILLUSTRATE OUR DESIRE TO CONTINUE COOPERATION WITH GUATEMALA TO PROMOTE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT.

(B) HOWEVER, OUR ABILITY TO DO SO IS IN LARGE MEASURE DEPENDENT ON THE GOG'S RECORD IN PROTECTING AND PROMOTING HUMAN RIGHTS.

(C) WE REALIZE THAT THE ELECTORAL PERIOD HAS OFTEN BEEN A PARTICULARLY SENSITIVE PERIOD, AND WE HAVE BEEN PLEASED WITH THE GOG'S ASSURANCES THAT THE ELECTION WILL BE FREE AND HONEST. WE WILL FOLLOW WITH INTEREST THE GOG'S EFFORTS TO CARRY OUT ITS COMMITMENT TO A FREE POLITICAL PROCESS LEADING UP TO, AND CARRYING THROUGH, THE ELECTIONS.

(D) NEVERTHELESS, WE ARE DISTURBED THAT RECENT INCIDENTS OF VIOLENCE FROM BOTH THE LEFT AND THE RIGHT COULD PRESAGE A GENERAL RESURGENCE OF VIOLENCE WHICH MIGHT SERIOUSLY ENDANGER OUR COOPERATIVE RELATIONSHIP.

(E) WE ARE PARTICULARLY DISTURBED BY ALLEGATIONS OF INVOLVEMENT OF GOG SECURITY AUTHORITIES IN SOME OF THE ANTI-LEFTIST VIOLENCE AND HOPE THAT THE GOG WILL ENSURE THAT THIS IS NOT THE CASE. IN THE SPECIFIC CASE OF THE CONFIDENTIAL

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RECENT KILLINGS OF TWO STUDENTS, WE NOTE WITH SATISFACTION THE GOG'S COMMITMENT TO INVESTIGATE AND HOPE ITS INVESTIGATION WILL DETERMINE WHETHER THE KILLINGS WERE THE RESULT OF EXTRALEGAL OFFICIAL VIOLENCE AND RESULT IN BRINGING THE PERPETRATORS TO JUSTICE. VANCE

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